

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner stated that claims 1-10 are allowed.

Applicants appreciate allowance of claims 1-10. The remaining claims 16 and 18-19 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

Claims 16, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nishikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,516,031, hereinafter “Nishikawa”).

These rejections are now moot due to the cancellation of these claims.

Claims 16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Pekol (U.S. Patent No. 5,573,174, hereinafter “Pekol”).

These rejections are now moot due to the cancellation of these claims.

Claims 16, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Matsuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,732,911 B2, hereinafter “Matsuki”).

These rejections are now moot due to the cancellation of these claims.

Response to Arguments

The Examiner stated that Applicant's arguments with respect to the references have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claims 1-10 being allowable, the remaining claims 11-20 have been canceled.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims 1-10 are allowed and, there being no remaining claims, passage to grant at an early date is solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including any extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0374 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

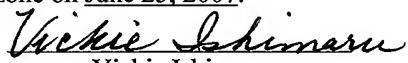
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this document is being transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via electronic filing from the Pacific Time zone on June 25, 2007.


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